

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009394
ORIGIN ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CU-04 SS-15 USIA-06 SIL-01
LAB-04 TRSE-00 EB-08 SP-02 NSC-05 IGA-02 OMB-01
L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 COME-00 HA-05 DODE-00
PA-01 PRS-01 IO-13 /098 R

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-----002652 130253Z /70

P 130052Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009394

ENO. 11652: GDS

TAGS:SHUM, ELAB, PA

SUBJECT:U.S. REACTION TO ARREST OF CHRISTIAN TRADE
UNIONISTS

REF: ASUNCION 76, 68, 116

1. DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS MET WITH AIFLD DIRECTOR DOHERTY
JANUARY 9. AS RESULT OF THIS MEETING AND YOUR RECOMMENDA-
TION HE ARE PREPARED TO DEFER ANY DECISION ON AIFLD PRO-
GRAM UNTIL DOHERTY COMPLETES PARAGUAY VISIT AND MAKES HIS
RECOMMENDATION TO US. DOHERTY'S TRAVEL ITINERARY FORWARDED
SEPTTEL.

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PAGE 02 STATE 009394

2. MEANWHILE, WE AGREE THAT A U.S. REACTION IS REQUIRED
AND ARE CONSIDERING VARIOUS ALTERNATIVES, INCLUDING THE
POSSIBILITY OF WITHDRAWING AIFLD. IN THIS CONNECTION IT
WOULD BE USEFUL TO HAVE ANSWERS TO SUCH OUTSTANDING QUES-
TIONS AS POSSIBLE OPM INVOLVEMENT, REASON FOR METALURGICAL
WORKERS INVOLVEMENT, STIMULUS FOR CPT LETTER (WAS IT
GOVERNMENT INSPIRED?) AND POSITION OF CHURCH (SALESIAN

ORDER) IN ARRESTS.

3. REGARDING THE AIFLD PROGRAM, WE UNDERSTAND THAT DOHERTY IS CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF "RECALLING" THE

AIFLD REPRESENTATIVE, GUS TORRES-LAZO, FOR SOME PERIOD OF TIME. THIS ACTION, WHICH WOULD BE IN LIEU OF CANCELLING PROGRAM, WOULD BE INTENDED AS A PROTEST AGAINST ARRESTS.

4. EITHER ALTERNATIVELY, OR IN CONNECTION WITH THE RECALL, WE ARE CONSIDERING SUGGESTING THAT AFL-CIO SEND LETTER TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER EXPRESSING PROFOUND REGRET OVER THE ARREST OF TRADE UNIONISTS. THE LETTER MIGHT INDICATE THAT AIFLD CONTINUATION IS UNDER REVIEW.

5. ANOTHER OPTION MIGHT BE DEMARCHE BY YOU TO PRESIDENT STROESSNER, BUT WE WOULD WANT YOUR VIEWS ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND TIMING OF SUCH A MOVE. YOU MIGHT ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVE CONCRETE EXPRESSIONS OF DISPLEASURE, E.G. WHILE YOUR PROPOSAL REGARDING U.S. POSTURE ON IFI LOANS IS UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION, YOU MAY WISH TO COMMENT WHETHER ARRESTS HAVE MODIFIED YOUR VIEWS REGARDING CONTINUED BILATERAL AID.
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PAGE 03 STATE 009394

6. RE ASUNCION 116 DOHERTY WISHES TO MAKE HIS VISIT LOW KEY, AND DOES NOT RPT NOT WANT ADVANCE PUBLICITY, WHICH HE FEELS WOULD INHIBIT HIS ABILITY TO NEGOTIATE WITH GOP. DOHERTY PLANS TO COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH TORRES-LAZO RE SUGGESTED VISIT TO EMBOSCADA PRISON. YOUR COMMENTS AND FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING DOHERTY'S VISIT WILL BE HELPFUL IN MAKING FINAL DECISIONS. CHRISTOPHER

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